

PURGATORI

Dracula Gambit



CHAOS!
COMICS

Purgatori: The Dracula Gambit #1 • \$2.95 U.S.

PURGATORITM

Dracula Gambit

Creator

Brian Pulido

Writer

David Quinn

Painted by

Brian LeBlanc

Cover by

Brom

Letterer

Comicraft

Editor

Drew Bittner

Senior Graphic Designer

Mike Flippin

Chaos! Logo

Brian Pulido
Leonardo Jimenez

Purgatori Logo

Mike Flippin

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TIRGOVISTE,
ROMANIA.

ANCIENT VAMPIRES SUCH AS
I REMEMBER WHEN FEWER
LEGENDS MUDDIED THE
ELEGANT COURSE OF
BLOOD WE CALL HISTORY.

I AM PURGATORI! I TRASHED
THE COVEN OF THE ANCIENTS,
AND ANYONE WHO MEDDLED
WITH MY CLAIM TO POWER!

THE CELT HIMSELF, HIS
LAUGHTER BOOMING
LIKE A PRIMAL
CURSE, RECOGNIZED
MY INDOMITABLE
LUST FOR LIFE!

SO WHY, THEN, DOES PILE
OF BLACK STONE BEFORE
ME AROUSE MY SENSES,
MAKING ME SHOUT AS
IF AGAINST A STORM?

YOU HAVE
SHOWN ME MANY
RUINS, LITTLE MAMMAL,
HOW DO I KNOW THIS
OBSTINATE WRECK
BELONGS TO THE
ONE I SEEK?

HISTORY...

IF I HAVE BEEN
CHASING SHADOWS,
HISTORY'S TIDE WILL
WASH OVER ME, ONE
MORE FORGOTTEN
IDOL...

...BUT IF I'VE FOUND MY
QUARRY, NONE SHALL
UTTER THE NAME
PURGATORI
WITHOUT DREAD RESPECT!

<LET ME LIVE,
PLEASE!>

<I SHOW
YOU THE HORRID
CASTLE -->

YESSSS, YOU
SHALL SHOW ME
THROUGH YOUR
EYES...

...BUT
BEFORE I SEE,
I MUST TASTE...
GRATEFUL...

ARRR LHH!

sshllupssh

RRRONCCHH!

...FOR THE
WAY YOUR WET
OFFERING FEEDS
MY EYES!

NOW, LET
ME SEE AS MY
MOST CUNNING
ADVERSARY
SEES!

AHHH...

TO MORTALS, A
RUIT -- BUT TO THE
ILLUSIONIST COUNT --

YES! AN OBSTIMATE
FORTRESS, A BRAZEN
MONUMENT TO HIS
LUST FOR POWER
AND FEAR!

I WAS RIGHT!
TONIGHT, HIS
LEGEND MUST DIE...
THAT MINE MAY
FLOURISH...

SNUFFT
WHO? SNUFFT
WHO COMES?

SNIFFT
HUNGER COMES!
SNIFFT SHE
COMES!

...BUT, OH, HOW I
SHALL SAVOR THE END
OF MY TREK, LIKE HOT,
HEADY IKHOR ITSELF...

...REMEMBERING
ALL THAT PROPELLED
ME HERE...

...BEGINNING WITH
MY RATHER RUDE
INTRODUCTION...
TO THE COURT.

SAN FRANCISCO,
TWO YEARS AGO...

I WAS MISERY PERSONIFIED
THEN. FATE AND AN UPSTART
BITCH NAMED LADY DEATH
DENIED ME MY RIGHTFUL
PLACE IN THE COSMOS...

...AND I FELL FROM
FEASTING ON THE
BLOOD OF THE
DARK GODS...

AHHH...

ONE
HEART BEATS
HUMAN...

...THE
OTHER TWO
ARE MINE!

...FELL TO STALKING
PETTY LITTLE PARASITES
UNDER THE NARCOTIC
AMERICAN DREAM...

WHAT
DO YOU
THINK YOU'RE
DO---?

SILENCE.
I BELIEVE THE
PHRASE IS
"SLUMMING",
YES?

BOY.
GO.

SISTER
RED MADE YOUR
LITTLE TREAT RUN
AWAY, VLAD --
DO HER!

Err
SHUT UP, SYN,
JUST SHUT
UP!

ANEMIC
LITTLE
THING...

SHALL
PURGATORI
MAKE YOUR HEART
THROB MORE...
WARMLY?

COOL, SHE'S
ONE OF US --
WE CAN HUNT
TOGETHER!

Errkkk

«HHHH!
ONE OF YOU?
I DON'T THINK
SO.

YOU WEAR
THEIR FASHIONS,
YOU PRIMP, YOU
PAINT...

SHUP SHUP

...YOU
STRIKE A
POSE FOR
THEM!

SHUP
SHUP

HERE,
GIRL -- WITHIN
THE HUSK OF MY
LITTLE MORSEL,
LISTEN!

Oh,
DARK BIRD,
HELP US...

FEEL IT?
WHEN THE LAST
BRIGHT DROP OF HIS
BLOOD DRAINS INTO

SHUP SHUP

ME OH, ALMOST
THERE...

ALL
TOO HUMAN...
WEAK!

HIS POOR
HUMAN HEART

SHUP SHUP

WILL THROB TO A
START, AND
THEN --

Thummmpp!

PLEASE,
NO!



CHOOOOMMPHHH!
HAHA
HAHA



I-I-I
THOUGHT
YOU --
CAME TO
JOIN US... TO
GIVE OF YOUR
POWER...

"GIVE?"
DOES A PRIMEVAL
VAMPIRE "GIVE" TO
VERMIN LIKE YOU?
SYN... I REACH INTO
THE PATTHEON
OF GODS!

BESIDES,
EVEN WHEN
PURGATORI
GIVES, SHE
TAKES!



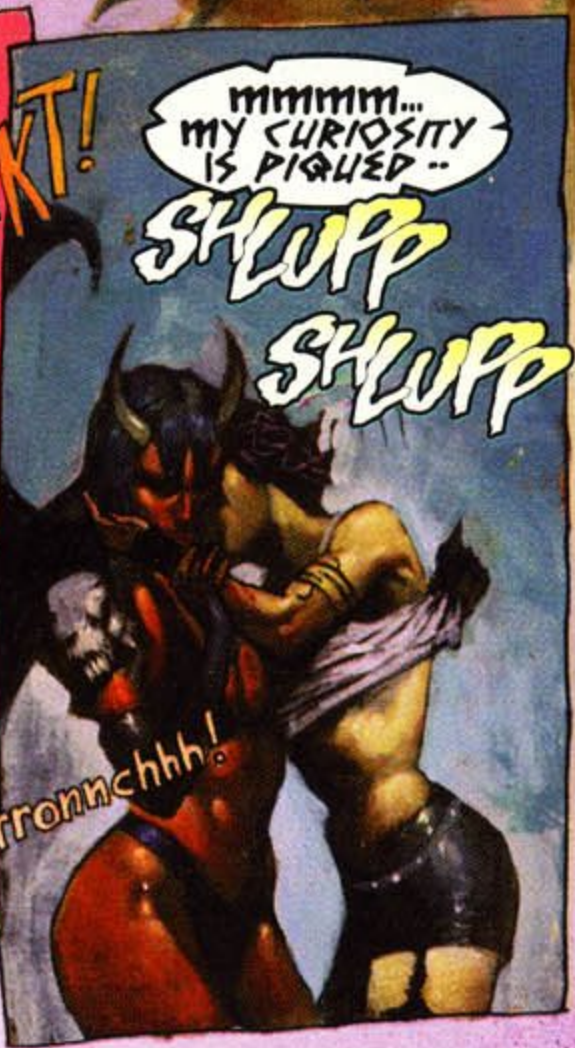
COME, THE EXTREME
RITE I PERFORMED
UPON YOUR MEWLING
MANTLING -- -- YOU
COULD DO THAT
TO ME! COME,
TAKE ME!



IF YOU
DARE...



SNAKKT!



MMMM...
MY CURIOSITY
IS PIQUED...

SHLUP
SHLUP

EEEEEEerrrronchhh!



TELL ME
ALL... OF THE "DARK
BIRD" TO WHOM YOUR
PLAYMATE PRAYED
IN VAIN!

WE
NEVER... NEVER
UTTER THE NAME
OF... THE GOD-
FATHER --

NEVER
LET GO
NOW!

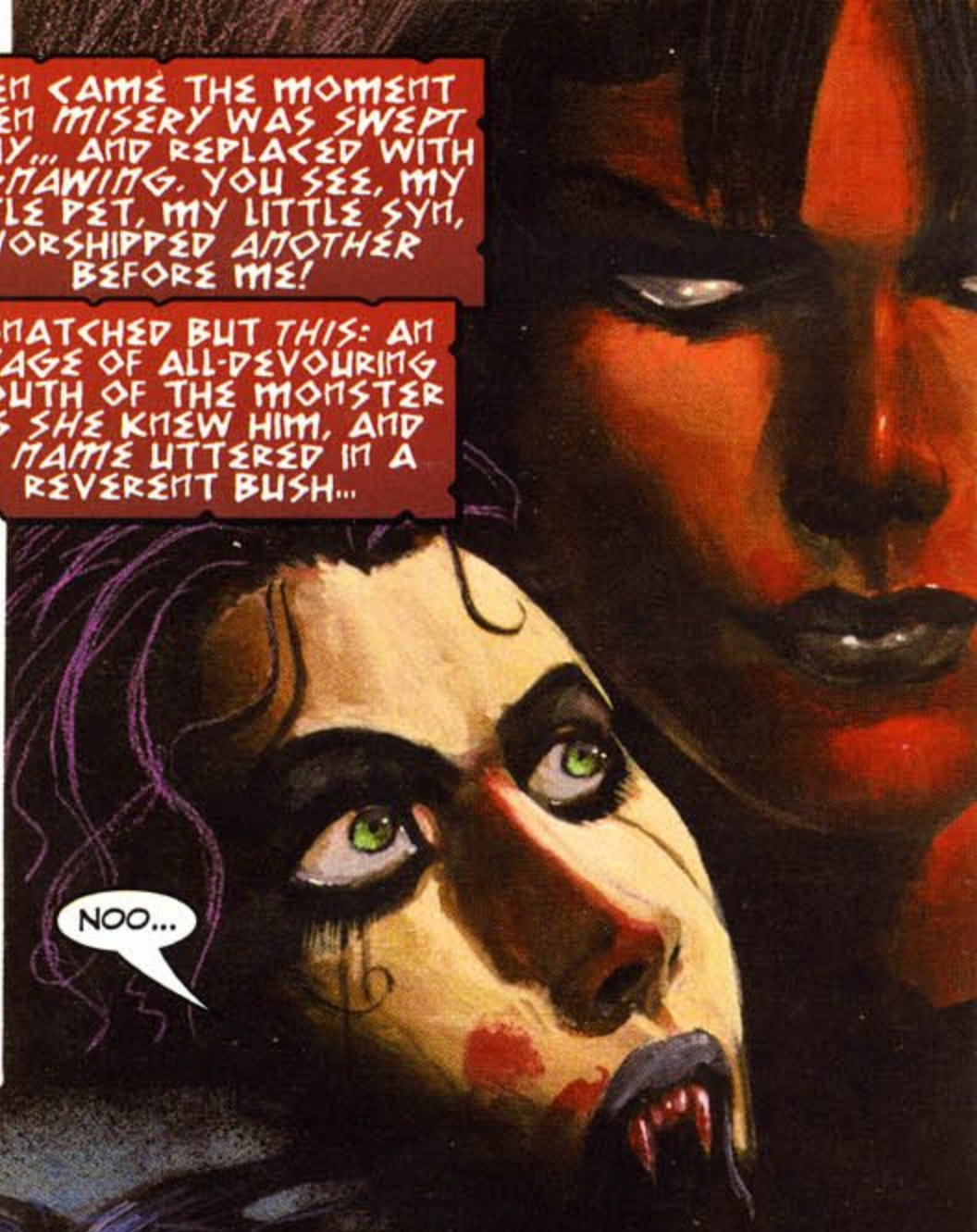


SO BE IT!
I SHALL FIND
HIM... IN THE PALE
FIRE FROM YOUR
VEINS!

NO, PLEASE,
I DON'T WANT
TO SHOW YOU...
DON'T WANT
TO SEE...

THEN CAME THE MOMENT
WHEN MISERY WAS SWEEP
AWAY... AND REPLACED WITH
A GRAWING. YOU SEE, MY
LITTLE PET, MY LITTLE SYN,
WORSHIPPED ANOTHER
BEFORE ME!

I SNATCHED BUT THIS: AN
IMAGE OF ALL-DEVOURING
MOUTH OF THE MONSTER
AS SHE KNEW HIM, AND
A NAME UTTERED IN A
REVERENT BUSH...



NOO...

HE
SEES ME!
THE COUNT
SEES --



I HAD TO KNOW HIM,
MY... ADVERSARY. BUT
GIVING HIM UP PROVED
MORE THAN SYN
COULD LIVE WITH...

KKK RASHHH!

EEEE!!!

A BLOOD OATH
IS BORN! I WILL
BRAVE YOU, "DARK
BIRD," SLAY YOU
EXQUISITELY...

...AND DROWN
MYSELF IN YOUR
POTENCY, MAKING IT
MY OWN BY CANNIBAL
MAGICK AND BLOOD
FEAST!

BY THE GODS,
TWO YEARS AGO.
THAT IS A MERE
FLICKER.

WHY THEN DOES
MY PROUD
CHALLENGE SEEM
SO OLD TONIGHT?

SINCE THEN I HAVE
DISCOVERED THAT
THOUGH THE DIVERSITY
OF VAMPIRE TRIBES
IS AS CHAOTIC AS
THAT OF OUR FOOD...

...ONE RARELY MEETS
A BLOOD-SUCKER WITH
NO... RELATIONSHIP
TO THIS COUNTRY.

AHH,
OF COURSE,
THE DOOR
OPENS ITSELF.
CHARMING.

SO, TRAVELING
FROM BUDAPEST TO
CLUJ TO BISTRETA...

...TO THE FORESTS
OF THE CARPATHIAN
MOUNTAINS...

I HAD TIME TO
MEDITATE ON INSIGHT
I'D GLEANED FROM
INTIMATES OF MY
DEAR ADVERSARY...

...BEFORE I DID
THEM THE HONOR
OF SLAYING THEM.

HSSSSSTT



RRRGHH!
WHAT A VILE,
HUMAN ERROR --
MISTAKING ARMOR
FOR THE WARRIOR
HIMSELF!

HISTORY IS
PLAYING WITH
ME... AGAIN.

I WAS IN COMPLETE
CONTROL! I KNEW
WHAT I WANTED!
LIES!

I ENTERED THIS
DARK PURSUIT
OF MY OWN
FREE WILL.

HA!

BY THE HORNS OF HELL,
I WAS MORE "FREE"
TO PLOT MY DESTINY
IN SLAVE'S SHACKLES,
THIRTY CENTURIES AGO!

MY DESIRE MAY HAVE BEEN
AS URGENT AS THE SCORCHING
SUN WHEN I BEGAN, BUT AS THE
CLOCK ALLOWED ME TO DANCE
CLOSER TOWARD THIS MOMENT...



... THE MORE I
THINK I LEARNED,
THE LESS I KNOW.

LONDON, TWO
YEARS AGO

YOU
CAN LIVE
THROUGH THIS
HOWLING NIGHT,
FOUL LITTLE
THING...

BLOODY
PROUD TO SERVE
THE DRAGON, I AM,
AN' I'LL NOT SAY
OTHERWISE!

THA'S
ALL YOU GET
FROM AULD
NEVILLE!
AHHH!

... I SAID,
YOU CAN LIVE
OR YOU CAN
CONTINUE TO
CLOISTER YOUR
SECRETS...

... YOU
SHALL NOT DO
BOTH. UNDER-
STAND?

YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND!
Y'CAN'T JUST
BLEEDIN' CALL
ON 'IM!

AULD
FANG, 'E'S
SATAN ON A
THREE-DAY
DRUNK!

"AN' AN INNOVATOR
WHEN IT CAME TO THE
PRACTICE OF IMPALEMENT,
HAHAHA!"

"BLOODIEST RULER
EUROPE EVER 'AD, IN THE
FIFTEENTH CENTURY!"

"THE SPIKE WAS
ALWAYS INTRODUCED
CAREFULLY, ENSURIN'
DEATH DIDN'T HURRY!"

"NAILED VISITING LORDS'
'ELMETS TO THEIR 'EADS
WHEN THEY WOULDN'T
DOFF 'EM RESPECTFULLY!"



"AN' 'IS ANSWER TO
THE DOLE, WELL, 'E
WAS ALL FOR FEEDIN'
THE DESTITUTE..."

"... LONG AS 'E
COULD ROAST 'EM
ALIVE, AFTER!"

THEY
SAY 'E COULD
NOSE WHETHER THE
SPUTTERING MUTTON
WAS VIRGIN OR STALE,
IF YOU GATHER MY
MEANIN' Hehheh-
hehheh!

TOAD!

CAN IT
BE YOU FEAR
YOUR SO-CALLED
"MASTER"...

...UNSEEN
MORE THAN
PURGATORI IN
THE FLESH?

Y-YOU'RE --

YOU'RE
THE FOOL,
WHITE EYES! THE
DRAGON'S
LORD OF THE
UNDEAD!

CRACK GUTS
AN' GUZZLE
BLOOD --
I'LL NEVER
BETRAY --

I
WOULD
NOT STAIN
MY TONGUE
WITH YOUR
ACID GORE,
NEVILLE...

UKK!



Ahhh...
MANY
THANKS...



YOU
WASTE MY
BODY... BUT...
M'LORD... WOULD
HAVE TORN
MY SOUL...

MAY THE
COUNT BRING
ME BACK... TO
BE WITH 'IM,
FOREVER...



...I AM THE
RESURRECTION...
PERHAPS AS A
CUNNING LITTLE
SPIDER... Oh... Oh...
THE MASTER...
'S AT HAND!

ONCE, IT WOULD
HAVE BEEN
ENOUGH TO KILL
THAT "MASTER..."



...BUT AFTER
NEVILLE, I
SCOURED HIS
TRAIL FOR A
YEAR, FUELED
BY A BURNING
IMAGE...



...OF THE "DRAGON" ON
SUPPLICATION'S BENT KNEE...

...COVERING HIS
HEAD WITH
ASHES, AT HIS
MISTRESS
PURGATORI'S
COMMAND.

TIL MY
DESIRE
CHANGED.
AGAIN...

BOSNIA, ONE
YEAR AGO.

...WHEN AT LAST I
PENETRATED HIS MOST
INTIMATE CIRCLE.

<...PURGATORI...>

<...I CAN'T
MOVE YOU
FROM MY THOUGHTS,
CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT
YOU...>

<THERE,
THERE... YOUR
PURGATORI
IS HERE.>

<DON'T
LEAVE
ME!>

TO ME, SEDUCING ONE
OF HIS WIVES IN THAT WAR
ZONE WAS... DIVERTING.
WAR IS THE VAMPIRE'S
"HAPPY HOUR..."

...WHO'S TO NOTICE
WHEN HEALTHY
STRIPLING TURN UP
WITH... THINGS
MISSING?

<HE'S ON HIS
WAY, THEN?
MMMM.>

<Mmuh
YES... I DID
AS YOU BID ME.
THE COUNT
COMES.>

HOW MY MANIPULATIONS MUST HAVE
BROUGHT BACK THE ROMANCE, THE
PAPRIKA AND THE SLAUGHTER, OF HIS
TRANSYLVANIA. A PERFECT TRAP.

AND I COULD
ALMOST
TASTE HIM.

<AHHH...
YOU ARE
WELL-
TRAINED...>

<TAKE
WHATEVER
YOU WANT,
JUST PLEASE
DON'T
LEAVE!>



<...MY
WHITE
FLOWER.>

Ohhhh...

...THEN, AS MY LIPS TRACED
PRICKING FLESH WHERE
HIS HAD BEEN...

...THE VISIONS BUBBLING
WITHIN HER BLOOD
FORCED ME ONCE AGAIN
TO RECONSIDER MY RAGE...

...DRINKING ELIZABETH,
I WAS ABRUPTLY
AWARE OF THE LOVER,
THE SAVIOR MY COUNTRY
HAD BECOME...

...A SUAVE BEARER
OF PASSPORTS
BY NIGHT...

...THE SHADOWY BENEFICIARY
OF NEW LIVES FOR REFUGEES
FROM "ETHNIC CLEANSING!"

AND WAS THIS
HIS FIRST INTER-
VENTION INTO
BARBARIC
SQUABBLES?

NO! A MYSTERIOUS,
NOCTURNAL NOBLEMAN
OF INDEPENDENT MEANS...

...PROVIDED
INTELLIGENCE THAT
LED TO THE HUMILIATION
OF MORE THAN ONE VAIN
DICTATOR IN THE PETTY
STORIES HUMANS
CALL WORLD WARS.

WHERE DID
HE FIND THE
TIME?

Ahhh...
<THREE
O'CLOCK
HAS
COME...>

<MY LORD
IS FREE, HE'S
GONE... YOU'VE
LOST HIM,
WITCH!>

<WHAT?
YOU SACRIFICED
YOURSELF?>

FOR A
MOSFERATH
WHO WOULD
SEE YOU LIKE
YOU WOULD A
FAT LAMB?
WHY?

<THINK
THAT... IF YOU
WILL... I GAVE
MYSELF
WILLINGLY. HE...
LOVED...>

DON'T BE
DUPED! WHAT
REEKS OF ALTRUISM
TO YOU IS MERELY THE
BASTARD'S WAY OF
PRESERVING HIS
LIVESTOCK!

I NEVER SEDUCED
THIS SMALL-BONED
BIRD. THE COUNT
SEDUCED ME, OR
MY LUST FOR
DESTRUCTION,
WITH HER!

AND FLEEING
BOSMIA, HE MADE
HIMSELF MORE
IRRESISTIBLE.

HE SUCKED ME
FURTHER AND
FURTHER DOWN...
INTO HIM.

RRRGHH!
INSIDE! SHE'S
INSIDE!

HURRY!
HURRGHHH!

NOW, AFTER ELIZABETH,
INSTEAD OF SLAUGHTER
OR ENSLAVEMENT, I
IMAGINE... POSSESSING
MY COUNT...

...AS MY MATE! I FEEL
EXPOSED -- A RAW
VULNERABILITY UNKNOWN
FOR MILLENNIA, SINCE I
WAS A LOWLY, HUMAN
SLAVE NAMED SAKKARA!

HE WILL NOT HAVE
THE SATISFACTION
OF KNOWING THIS...

WELCOME.

NO, NOT
FOR THE BLOOD
OF HEAVEN!

OH.

Ahhh...
MODESTY TELLS
ME, LADY, YOU ARE
NOT USUALLY THIS...
RESERVED.

YOU WERE
RELENTLESSNESS
HERSELF, PUTTING
YOUR COARSE *FIST*
THROUGH MY SECOND-
BEST SUIT OF
ARMOR.

BUT WHEN YOU
ENDEAVOR TO THINK,
YOU ARE LOVELY. AND,
YOU JUST *MIGHT* BE
DANGEROUS.

IT IS MY
APPEARANCE THAT
IRRITATES YOU, YES? YOU
WOULD PREFER, PERHAPS,
THE BAT, OR LOPING
WOLF? I DON'T DO
BELA LUGOSI.

Ahh, BUT
SUCH PLEASURE
COMES FROM LETTING
MYSELF BECOME THIS
SEASONED. I FEEL
PAPER-THIN... AND
PRIVY TO...

...THE
VOLUPTUOUSNESS
OF THE LITTLE PAINS...
IN ALL THINGS... YOU
SHOULD TRY IT SOME
TIME, OLD GIRL.

FORGIVE ME. I WOULD OFFER YOU *SOMEONE* TO *DRINK*, BUT I SENT AWAY THE SERVANTS...

...THAT WE MIGHT BE ALONE.

WHAT? ARE YOU *SEMILE?* OR *SYPHILITIC*, LIKE THAT STAR-STRUCK *DRAMA* CRITIC WHO PENNED THAT *FANTASY* ABOUT YOU A CENTURY AGO?

PLEASE. IS *SLANDERING* Mr. STOKER'S NAME... NECESSARY?

I ONCE SUCKED AT THE HOARY THROAT OF LUCIFER!

DO NOT MOCK PURGATORI!

I HAVE HEARD OF YOU. BUT BY *ANGERING* YOU, I GIVE YOU OPENING TO *SAVE FACE*.

HOW *HUMILIATING* IT WOULD BE FOR YOU TO ADMIT *TRUTHFULLY* WHY YOU HAVE *INVADED* MY SANCTUM...

YOU *FEAR* ME, BUT YEARN FOR... *INTIMACY*. IF YOU DISAGREE, REMIND ME...

NO...

...WHO CHASED WHOM... THESE LAST --

TWO...
YEARS?

I WAS
BATHING IN THE
BLOOD OF ANGELS
WHEN YOU WERE A
HUMAN THUG, DRIVING
NAILS THROUGH OLD
WOMEN!

YESSS... THIS
IS INTIMATE -- THOUGH
YOU COULD HAVE SHARED
THE LIKE WITH DEAR, RANCID,
OLD NEVILLE!

BUT I
WAS *WRONG*,
PURGATORI...

...LOVELY
IS NOT THE WORD.
WHEN YOU'RE OPEN AND
LISTENING... YOU ARE
DELICIOUS.

NOTHING IS MORE
DELICIOUS THAN
SURRENDER TO
THE TRUTH.

YOU SEE, THE
VAMPIRE CANNOT
LOOK INTO A GLASS
TO SEE HERSELF... SHE
MUST LOOK INTO HER
OWN KIND.

WILL YOU
FIND, IN *MY*
HISTORY, WHAT IS
MISSING IN YOURS?
CIRCLE MY *FLAME*
NO MORE, MY DEAR --
DARE NOW TO FEEL...
CONSUMMATION.

I WANT...
...WANT
TO FEEL...

Mmmmm,
DO YOU KNOW,
I WAS CLOSE ENOUGH
TO YOU AND *ELIZABETH* TO
TASTE YOUR BREATH ON THE
AIR -- BUT YOU WERE
NOT *READY*.

YOU HAD TO
TRULY *LOSE* YOUR
WAY TO COME
TO *ME*.

SLICH



Ahh!!
I WILL STUFF YOUR
ARROGANT LITTLE
"FLAME!"



PURGATORI'S
LEGEND SHALL
REPLACE
YOURS!

SNATCH



SHHHRRKKKI!



Oh,
PURGATORI... YOU'RE
LIKE THE ADDICT WHO SWEARS
SHE CAN "KICK" ANY TIME SHE
WANTS TO, BUT KEEPS FEEDING
A BOTTOMLESS HOLE INSIDE...



...INSIST
YOU OWE NOTHING
TO YOUR FORMER
HUMANITY...

SHLUPP SHLUPP

...AND
HUMANITY WILL
RULE YOU...

...IT WILL
BREAK YOU!
Ahhhhhhh!

ARE YOU --
Mmmmm, YESSS --
BEGINNING TO
UNDERSTAND WHAT
THIS WORD MEANS,
"LEGEND?"



YOU ARE
FIERCE... BUT
ARE YOU FIERCE
ENOUGH TO
EMBRACE... THE
UNKNOWN?



"WHEN YOU DRINK OF ME,
YOU BECOME MY BRIDE...
WE HAVE NO SECRETS..."

FASTER!
SHE HURTS THE
MASTER!

Mmmmm,
DO YOU REALIZE,
YOU DO NOT KISS,
MY PURGATORI --
YOU ASSAULT, YOU
COLLIDE! THAT'S IT...
DRINK ME...

I TOO FEEL
THE MUSIC OF
THE CHILDREN OF
THE NIGHT, YET I
CHERISH SENSATION
OF SO MUCH
MORE...

SOME WOULD DIE
FOR FEAR OF THIS
COUNT, OTHERS FOR
LOVE. AND I OPEN
MYSELF TO HIM.
WE... SUBMERGE.

HOT BLOOD SWELLS, MIXES,
AND MY DEEPEST MIND,
PERHAPS EVEN MY SOUL,
EMBRACES HIS. I AM MORE
NAKED THAN I HAVE EVER
BEEN. I... LET... GO...

YOU DIRTY
YOURSELF WITH
HUMAN TRIVIA, AND
STILL, YOU ARE SO...
POWERFUL!
WHY?

I WANT...
TO FEEL... WHAT
YOU FEEL! GIVE
IT TO ME!

NO! IT'S
TOO MUCH...
TOO SUDDENLY...
BUT DO NOT
STOP!

YOU
CONTRADICT
YOURSELF! MY
MALE MIRROR... THE
MOST SAVAGE AND
THE MOST SENSUAL!
THE DARK BIRD!
THE DRAGON!

BUT STILL
YOU CLUTCH
AT THE DRESS OF
MORTALITY! I FEEL
HOW YOU FEEL
THEM IN YOUR
VEINS!

TO BE A
LEGEND AMONG
HUMANKIND, ONE PAYS
A DIRE PRICE. ONE
MUST REMAIN HUMAN AT
HEART -- WITH ALL THE
FRAILTY AND FEAR
ENTAILED!

FEEL ME,
PURGATORI -- DO
I FEEL "DIRTIED?" OR
DO I FEEL FULL? I WAS
THE IMPALER. AND I
MOURNED ELIZABETH
AND NEVILLE
ACUTELY.

AMONG
OTHERS.

I CHANGE
THE COURSE OF
WARS, REDUCE MAN'S
EXPOSURE TO PLAGUES,
ASSASSINATE HEADS
OF STATE, PROTECT AND
INSPIRE REVOLUTIONARIES...
EVERY DAY, MY HANDS ARE
AT WORK AMONGST
MY FELLOW...

...YES, MY
FELLOW...

MEN!

HAHAHA...

BUT
HUMANITY IS
SOMETHING... I
CAST OFF... TO BE
A LEGEND, TO
GAIN POWER...

POWER
YOU HAVE. BUT
CAN YOU AFFORD TO
LIVE WITHOUT ALL
THAT YOU HAVE
LOST?

NO, I DON'T
DARE! TO FEEL... THE
REAWAKENED AGONY
OF MY LIFE IN CHAINS,
MY FALL FROM GRACE,
MY HUMILIATION BY
LADY DEATH!

OH! IMAGINE
CONFRONTING THE
BITCH AGAIN, FEELING
WHAT YOU FEEL NOW!
WITH YOUR EYES OPEN,
PURGATORI!

I WOULD
KILL YOU FOR
WHAT YOU HAVE
SHOWN ME, MY
COUNT...

...BUT I
FIND I CAN ONLY
ENDURE THIS BLACK
"GIFT"... ENDURE
AND BREAK...

FREE!



SKKISSHH

KRAK
K

HSSSSSSST!

KKRASSH

BITES!

TEAR
HER!

TEAR
HER!

EYES...
PRETTY!
EAT!

SOFT
MEAT
TEAR.

BLOOD
SMELL
BLOOD!

SUCH
JUICY...

THERE... IS
LITTLE LEFT OF
ME... BUT IT WILL
BE ENOUGH TO
LAY WASTE TO
YOU... VERMIN!



ENOUGH!
WHOEVER
TOUCHES OUR
HONORED GUEST
WILL SEE *SUNRISE*...
WRITHING UPON
MY *SWORD*!

ESCORT THE
LADY TO THE BORDER,
UNDER COVER OF SWEET
NIGHT! AND SINCE SHE
CALLS YOU RATS, *RATS*
YOU SHALL *BE*!

RATTSSSSS...

SSKREEE

SKREEEEK!

KNOW THAT
PURGATORI IS NOW
MY *BRIDE*... NO HAND
SHALL *HARM* HER IN
ALL THE *WORLD*...

...BUT MY
OWN. LADY, YOU
HAVE THE *WORD*
OF *DRACULA*.

MAY THE
TASTE OF THIS
KISS LINGER
LONG AFTER
YOU ARE
GONE.



GONE?

I COULD
NOT KILL YOU,
EITHER, MY DEAR --
ONCE I FELT YOUR
VERY *HUMAN*
PAIN... AND
LOVE.

YOU NEED NOT
ANSWER. THE RESPECT
IS... MUTUAL. *DRACULA*
IS LORD OF VAMPIRES...
AND YOUR ALLY IN THE
REBELLION AGAINST
YOUR HATED
GODS!



THAT WAS A FIRST --
NO SLAVERY WAS
IMPLIED IN MY COUNT'S
"BRIDE." OR DID I JUST
HEAR WITH DIFFERENT
EARS THAN I HAD BEFORE
THIS NIGHT'S BLOODY
CROSSROADS?

OH, I HAVE BEEN
PLAYED BY A
GAMESMAN SUPREME,
TO BE SURE, AND WELL
COULD I FANTASIZE
UPON COLDEST
REVENGE...

...BUT IN FAILING
TO GET WHAT I
THOUGHT I WANTED,
I EARNED AN
UNDERSTANDING
I WAS TRULY
HUNGRY FOR, SO...

...LET THE
COSMOS BEWARE...
A MORE HUMAN,
FAR MORE DANGEROUS
PURGATORI HAS HER
EYES UPON YOU!

END.